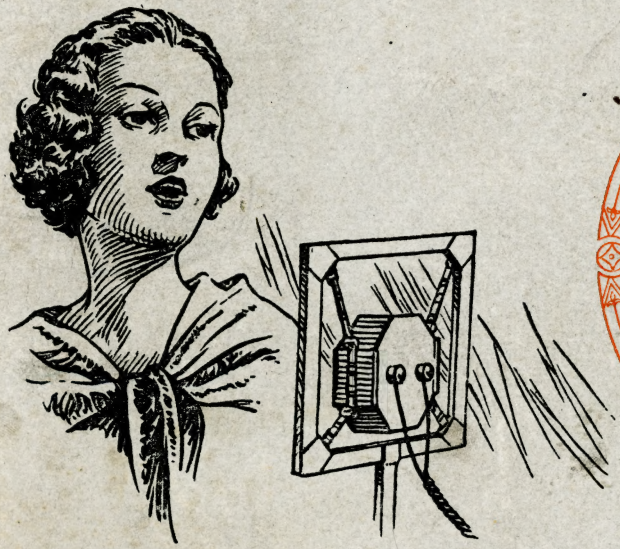
Radio Celebrities



An Album
to contain
the portraits of
RADIO CELEBRITIES
now being issued
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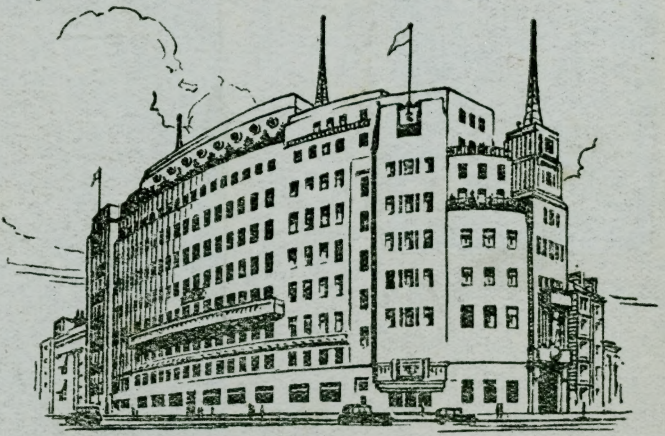
Radio Celebrities

FOR many years broadcasting artistes, announcers and speakers remained rather mysteriously aloof—in the air, as it were! Now, however, these "Stars of the Air" are becoming better known to listeners. They bring to the microphone so much more than a mere accomplishment or voice—they bring a personality; and it is often this personality which interests the listener and makes a "Radio Celebrity."

In recent years "Wireless" has become increasingly popular, and we hope that these portraits will add a personal touch to names which are now very familiar to listeners.

Interesting and informative particulars are given on the backs of the cards, which are adhesive so that they may easily be fixed in the appropriate spaces in this Album, thus preserving this attractive series in a permanent form.



Broadcasting House, Portland Place

A. STUART HIBBERD. "Good night, everybody, *Good* night." Few among millions of listeners fail to respond to the friendly tones of these familiar words. The voice of the Chief Announcer of the B.B.C. is heard probably more frequently and by more people than any other voice in the world. Stuart Hibberd is a University man like the other announcers, but it cannot be said that he has an "Oxford" voice—because unlike the others he was at Cambridge. His voice is loved by young and old, and he frequently takes part in Children's Hour programmes in which he sometimes sings. He is one of the tallest men at Broadcasting House. (No. 1.)

E. R. APPLETON. The director of the West Regional Station is very popular throughout the West Country, and although an Englishman, he thoroughly understands the Welsh people. In the early days of broadcasting he originated the Silent Fellowship broadcast from Cardiff and Daventry. He still conducts this feature which appeals to an ever-widening circle of listeners. Later he began the "Joan and Betty" series on Sunday afternoons. In these well-known bible stories presented in a dramatized form he was assisted at the microphone by his two daughters. Quiet, unassuming in manner, and sincere, Mr. E. R. Appleton is in great demand as a pulpit speaker. He is an honorary Druid. (No. 2.)

FREDERICK GRISEWOOD. Announcers were at one time regarded as the "mystery men" of radio. Frederick Grisewood is Assistant Chief Announcer, and "Uncle Freddie" to Children's Hour listeners. Educated at Oxford, he was subsequently trained as a professional singer. After singing in Paris and Munich he came to London, and sang the bass solo part in Henschel's "Requiem" at Queen's Hall. The war interrupted his career, and he was invalided out of the army. After some amateur acting he joined the B.B.C. and featured as "Old Bill" in a very popular dialect series. He has played cricket for Worcestershire and hockey for Oxford. (No. 3.)

COMMANDER STEPHEN KING-HALL, grandson, son and nephew of admirals, fought at Jutland, and is the author of works on politics and economics. Coming to the microphone four years ago, he is now one of the most popular broadcasters, and his talks "Here and There" in the Children's Hour are an institution in many homes. He was responsible for the idea of interesting young listeners in the news of the day, and his success can be seen in the fact that he has now broadcast nearly 200 talks in the series. With his clear and kindly manner and his "Be good, but not so frightfully good—!" he has won a unique place in the affections of our boys and girls. (No. 4.)

DEREK McCULLOCH. Known as "Uncle Mac," Derek McCulloch is in charge of the Children's Hour, and in addition to his thousands of "nephews" and "nieces" he has a little daughter of his own. He is described as the "man who always smiles" yet while still in his teens he was badly wounded and left for dead on the Somme battlefield. Visiting the battlefields recently he found the place where he so nearly lost his life. On his return he gave a broadcast of his memories, and as a result of this, the Prince of Wales telephoned his appreciation to Broadcasting House. "Mac" is the author of many plays and stories. (No. 5.)

SIR WALFORD DAVIES. "Master of the King's Musick" and known to children everywhere for his music talks, Sir Walford Davies began his career as a choir-boy at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, later becoming assistant organist and then (1927-31) organist there. He had the largest music class in the world, but gave up the broadcast music lessons this year. During his series of broadcast talks to children he received from them some 200 compositions a week, most of them excellent. Sir Walford Davies has become so well known through broadcasting that his importance as a brilliant composer is apt to be overlooked. (No. 6.)

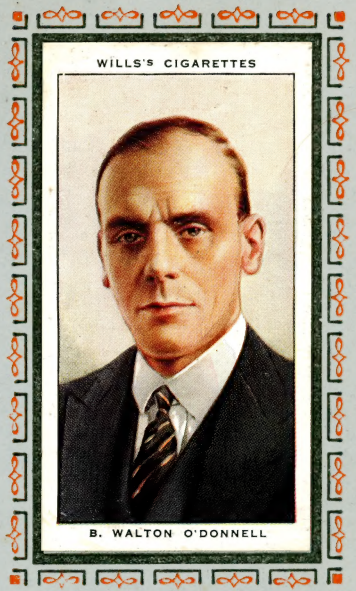
GEORGE F. ALLISON. With years of football experience behind him, George F. Allison is the "Soccer" master of the microphone. Beginning his career as secretary to a judge, he gave that up for journalism which he practised in Manchester before coming to London. He is now manager of the Arsenal F.C. Twenty-five years ago he played professional football for Edinburgh, and in 1923 made his first "Soccer" broadcast; since then he has broadcast running commentaries of more than 100 matches. He knows more than 500 footballers by sight, and is quickly able to identify them on the field. He also gave the first broadcast descriptions of the Derby and the Grand National. (No. 7.)

CHRISTOPHER STONE. The inimitable compère of gramophone recitals, Christopher Stone has broadcast over 500 times. He has his own library of some 12,000 records. He became interested in the gramophone through his brother-in-law, the popular novelist, Compton Mackenzie, who cannot write without music. The latter has one of the finest collections of records in existence, and founded *The Gramophone* of which Christopher Stone has for many years been the London editor. Educated at Eton and Oxford, Christopher Stone served in the Royal Fusiliers and won the D.S.O. and M.C. He lives in a delightful old rectory in Sussex, and does his work in an ancient "Round House" in the garden. (No. 8.)

CAPTAIN H. B. T. WAKELAM was actually the first to broadcast a sporting commentary—this was the Rugby International, England v. Wales in 1927. Since then he has broadcast commentaries on Rugger, Boxing, Cricket and Tennis and even on the Tidworth Tattoo. His speciality, however, is Rugby football, and, as a former captain of the Harlequins he has the necessary knowledge as well as the gift of making the game easy to follow. Educated at Marlborough College and Pembroke, Cambridge, he was in the City of London Regiment of the Royal Fusiliers and later in the R.F.A. He saw war service in France, Egypt and Palestine. (No 9.)

SIR HENRY WOOD. Britain's senior conductor began his career as organist at St. Mary's, Aldermanbury, at the early age of ten. Four years later he gave his first public organ recital at South Kensington, and became a student at the Royal Academy of Music. In 1887 he began to conduct—at a suburban musical society. When only twenty-five he conducted the first Queen's Hall Promenade Concert, and this year (1934) he conducts his 40th "Prom" season in the same building. He was knighted in 1911, and has been broadcasting for seven years. Sir Henry lives at Chorley Wood, Bucks, where he practises his hobby of painting in a studio built by himself. (No. 10.)

DR. ADRIAN BOULT. This highly-esteemed musician has been Music Director of the B.B.C. since 1930. Educated at Westminster and Oxford and finishing his musical education at Leipzig, he joined the musical staff of the Royal Opera in 1914. During the War he was attached to the War Office. Since 1918 he has conducted for the Royal Philharmonic Society, and in 1919 joined the teaching staff of the Royal College of Music. His experience has also included conducting Russian Ballet at the Alhambra and directing popular concerts. He came to the B.B.C. from the City of Birmingham Orchestra. (No. 11.)



B. WALTON O'DONNELL, the conductor of the Wireless Military Band and Professor at the Royal Academy of Music, comes of a family of military musicians. Born at Madras, where his father was conductor of a military band, he is the youngest of three brothers, all bandmasters. Before leaving school he won a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music. After attending the Royal Military College of Music, he was appointed to the 7th Hussars, and later to the Royal Marines. While directing the latter he accompanied the Prince of Wales on his African and South American tours, receiving the M.V.O. He took over the Wireless Military Band in 1927. (No. 12.)

JOSEPH MUSCANT. This popular conductor (who made his radio fame with the Commodore Grand Orchestra broadcasts) was born in Russia and was taught to play the violin by his father. At the age of nine he gave a recital at Queen's Hall, and a few years later toured the variety halls with an orchestra. He has also conducted a symphony orchestra of 110 players, and has appeared before Royalty. First broadcasting over ten years ago from Manchester, he has become known to listeners as the "King of *Pot-Pourri*"—a title he has earned by arranging over fifty *pot-pourris* since he began broadcasting. (No. 13.)

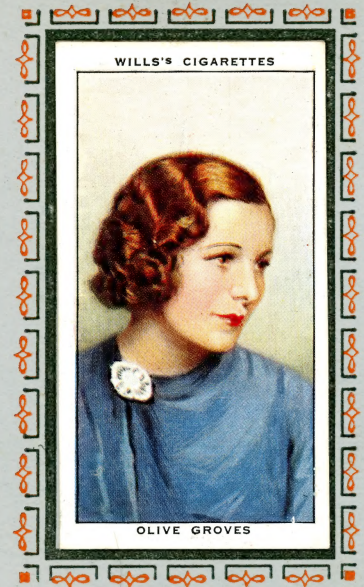
CECIL DIXON. Popularly known in the early days of broadcasting as Aunt Sophie, "the woman with the shy voice," Miss Cecil Dixon was among the first artistes to join the B.B.C. As solo pianist, official accompanist and "Aunt," her voice and playing have become very well known to listeners. She is so constantly in demand as an accompanist, that her solo playing is becoming less and less frequent. Born on a sugar plantation in the Fiji Islands, Miss Dixon came to England in 1913, and besides her work for the B.B.C. is also on the teaching staff of the Royal College of Music. (No. 14.)

GERSHOM PARKINGTON. Gershom Parkington is the 'cellist of the famous quintet which bears his name. First broadcasting about eight years ago, his quintet has now become one of the most popular combinations on the air. Before beginning his work for the B.B.C. he was for eight years director of music at Bridlington. As a young man he won an R.C.M. scholarship; later he joined the Queen's Hall Orchestra and also worked with Sir Thomas Beecham at Covent Garden. Gershom Parkington has travelled widely; his hobby is collecting antiques, and he has a wonderful collection of clocks. (No. 15.)

ARTHUR CATTERALL. Leader of the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra, and Professor of Violin at the Royal Academy of Music, Arthur Catterall is one of the great violinists of our time. Born in Preston, he studied under Dr. Brodsky at the Manchester Royal College of Music. He was leader of the Hallé Orchestra for twelve years, and one of his proudest recollections is that of being invited by Richter to accompany him to Bayreuth to play violin solos to Frau Wagner in the world-famous Wagner home. In Manchester he formed the famous Catterall Quartet, and before the war was *Concertmeister* of the Queen's Hall Promenade Concerts. (No. 16.)

PEGGY COCHRANE. Violinist, pianist, composer, cabaret star and veteran broadcaster, Peggy Cochrane is one of the most versatile of Radio Celebrities. At the age of eight, she was the youngest pupil at the Royal Academy of Music where she held a scholarship. When she was fourteen she won both the open pianoforte and open violin championships on the same day, and during that same year had her first two ballads published. Not long ago she appeared at Queen's Hall to play a violin concerto; less than an hour later she was in a famous West-End restaurant cabaret giving syncopated songs at the piano with equal success. She has appeared on the stage in "Wonder Bar" and "Ballyhoo." (No. 17.)

REGINALD NEW. This very popular cinema organist laid the foundation of his career in church music. He was a choir-boy at the age of nine, and studied the violin, on which instrument he is still proficient (often playing the violin or singing as a change from organ-playing) and was choirmaster and organist at Christ Church, Chislehurst. Then the films demanded organists, and in 1921 he secured the console of a London cinema. In 1929 he made his first broadcast from the Beaufort Cinema, Birmingham, and after broadcasting 468 times from there he was transferred to the Regal Cinema at Kingston-on-Thames in 1933, whence he still regularly broadcasts. (No. 18.)



OLIVE GROVES. Olive Groves came to the microphone through a coincidence. Her father was in the Army of Occupation, and Miss Groves went over to Cologne to entertain the troops. Years later in the Strand someone stopped her saying: "Weren't you the young lady who sang at Cologne?" The man was a B.B.C. official, and as a result Miss Groves was engaged as a singer. That was in 1926; she has sung almost every week since, and has won an unrivalled place in the affections of listeners. Olive Groves lives in London with her husband and a small son; her hobbies are bridge and making her own clothes. (No. 19.)

PETER DAWSON. Generally recognized as one of the greatest of living baritones, Peter Dawson was born in Australia and studied singing in Adelaide. He began his career by singing the bass solos in the "Messiah" at the age of seventeen. Winning the first prize and gold medal at the famous Ballarat Festival in 1900, he was able to come to England where he studied with Sir Charles Santley for four years. He made his first English tour in 1904 with Mme. Albani. In that year also, he appeared at Covent Garden, and made his first gramophone record; since then more than ten million Peter Dawson records have been sold all over the world. (No. 20.)

ISOBEL BAILLIE. This very fine soprano is known all over the world where either radio or records carry the wonderful purity of her voice. A native of Manchester, she has made a great reputation as a singer of Handel's music, particularly in oratorio. Her original Christian name was Bella, but recently she changed it, her reason being that her baptismal name savoured more of musical comedy than of serious music. Her first music teacher was Madame Sadler-Fogg of Manchester, the mother of Eric Fogg who as "Uncle Eric" is well-known to Children's Hour listeners. Whenever she broadcasts with piano accompaniment she insists on having Eric Fogg as her pianist. (No. 21)

RICHARD TAUBER. Richard Tauber was born in Austria, his father being an actor and conductor of the State Theatre at Chemnitz. He studied music at the Frankfurt Conservatoire, becoming a conductor at the age of eighteen. About this time he discovered that he had a fine voice, and abandoned conducting to make his début in "The Magic Flute." Tauber had very little vocal training and can really claim to be self-taught. He practises his songs with his own accompaniment at the piano, for he is a pianist of considerable ability. His first appearance in operetta was in Franz Lehar's "Frasquita," and he has been the greatest exponent of Lehar ever since. (No. 22.)

PAUL ROBESON. Singer, actor, lawyer and athlete, Paul Robeson (who was the son of a well-known coloured preacher) was born in New Jersey, U.S.A. in 1898. He was educated at Columbia University and studied law. Playing negro rôles in two Eugene O'Neill plays, Robeson created a sensation; this started him on a new career, and from the stage he went to the concert hall. His first concert, in 1925, was a great success, and that year he came to London to play lead in "The Emperor Jones," and again in 1928 to sing "Ole Man River" in the "Show Boat." Since then he has made his home in London. He first broadcast here in 1929. (No. 23.)

DENNIS NOBLE. This very fine baritone singer was educated in the Cathedral School of Bristol, his native city, and became a chorister there. Later he joined the Westminster Abbey staff, becoming lay vicar of the Abbey and leading baritone of the choir. In that capacity he made his first broadcast on the night of the wedding of the Duke of York, when the Abbey Choir was packed into a tiny B.B.C. studio at Marconi House and sang a special anthem. He has since broadcast hundreds of times in all types of programmes, from musical comedy to "Sea Drift" at the Delius Festival. An enthusiastic cricketer, he is a member of several London cricket clubs. (No. 24.)

ANONA WINN. Charming and petite Anona Winn is one of the busiest and most accomplished of radio revue artistes. Born in Sydney, she was reading for the Bar when Melba heard her singing one day and offered her a scholarship. After singing in the leading concert halls of Melbourne and in musical comedy, she came to London and appeared in "Hit the Deck"; she began broadcasting in 1928. In Australia she was the first artiste to broadcast, and was in the first revue ever televised. Anona Winn has composed several popular songs, including "What more can I ask?" (No. 25.)

KATE WINTER. Known as "the silvery-voiced soprano of the air," Kate Winter originally had leanings towards the piano, on which instrument she wanted to become a professional musician, but instead she became a school teacher. Her cousin, Grace Day-Winter, began her voice training; later she studied at the Royal College of Music and took lessons from Ivor Foster the famous baritone. On her marriage she gave up school teaching and took up singing. Sir Henry Wood coached her and later she was able to sing under him at a Promenade Concert. She began broadcasting in the very early days at Marconi House, and has been a regular B.B.C. singer ever since. (No. 26.)

MARJERY WYN. Born in Leeds, this golden-haired actress came South to begin her career in a concert party at Westcliff-on-Sea. She returned to Yorkshire as principal girl in the "Babes in the Wood" at Huddersfield. Musical comedy work followed, and in the revival of "The Lady of the Rose" opposite Harry Welchman, she caused a furore by appearing as a West-End leading lady without having previously had West-End experience. When "Mr. Cinders" went on tour she took Binnie Hale's part; she was also in the revival of "The Quaker Girl" and with Stanley Lupino in "Hold My Hand." Marjery Wyn first broadcast three years ago. (No. 27.)

CLAPHAM AND DWYER. Before becoming known to listeners, Clapham was a clerk in the office of a famous K.C., and Dwyer was a commercial traveller. After the partnership was formed, a booking came within the first week—it was to appear at a private party before the Duke and Duchess of York. At their B.B.C. audition they were asked to sing, and replied that they couldn't. Instead, they talked the first nonsense that came into their heads—and got an immediate engagement! Dwyer, the one who keeps on trying to be sensible, is fat; Clapham, the "silly ass" who never finds the right word at the right time, is slim. (No. 28.)

JEANNE DE CASALIS. In private life Mrs. Colin Clive, to listeners "Mrs. Feather," Miss de Casalis was born in Basutoland and was the daughter of Dr. Georges Casalis de Pury. Educated in Paris, she studied for the stage in Moscow, and made her professional début at the Casino at Cannes. Her best remembered performance was in "The Yellow Streak," the play in which she met her husband. Miss de Casalis created her radio character "Mrs. Feather" herself, the inspiration coming from a morning in her own home. It is based on the average harassed housewife, and although a caricature, it is sufficiently real to make it popular. Miss de Casalis lives in a delightful cottage in Kent. (No. 29.)

ERNEST BUTCHER AND MURIEL GEORGE. These popular broadcasters call themselves "Butch" and "George." They are known all over the world as "the duettists who put Ilkla' Moor on the map" by their singing of this Yorkshire folk song. They are married and live in North London in a house with its own pastures and orchard. "George" is an enthusiastic housekeeper, and "Butch" has the quaint hobby of wood cutting. He started life as a serious singer and was bent on opera until "George" came along. She convinced him that he was as much a comedian as a tenor, and they started their broadcasting career at an Albert Hall Concert. (No. 30.)

GRACIE FIELDS. One of the most popular comediennes, the inimitable Gracie is Lancashire-born, and proud of it! She began her career by winning a singing competition at a local cinema when thirteen years old, and afterwards worked in a factory until she obtained a part in a touring revue with Archie Pitt. She and Archie soon left this, and their own show called "Mr. Tower of London," ran for seven years and played for more than 4,000 performances without a break. During this run she married Archie Pitt and has appeared in all his shows since. Gracie Fields first broadcast in 1927. (No. 31.)

GILLIE POTTER. Described as "that sham Harrovian who bears upon his blazer the broad arrows of a blameful life," Gillie Potter is the comedian who has nearly put Hogsnorton on the map. His broadcasts from that imaginary county town have become known all over the world, although he has only been broadcasting since 1931. For nearly twenty-five years, however, he has been a front-rank music-hall comedian. He leaped into prominence in the 1930 Royal Command Performance as "the man who made the Queen laugh." In private life Gillie Potter is a great book-lover with an extensive library; he is an authority on church history and a sidesman at a London church. (No. 32.)

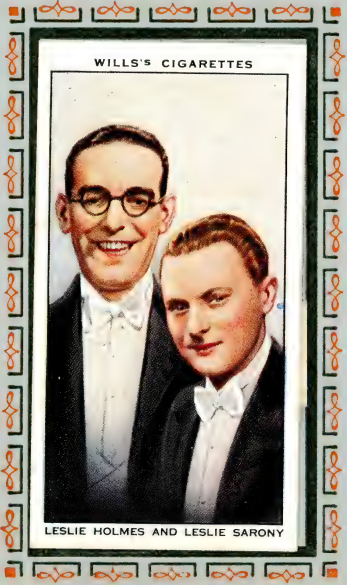
TESSA DEANE. Tessa Deane might have been a professional pianist instead of a popular radio singer. Winning a pianoforte scholarship at the Royal College of Music in 1924, she studied under Arthur Alexander, and three years later she was awarded the Chappell Gold Medal. Then she discovered she had a voice, and turned her enthusiasm towards musical comedy, her first big rôle being in "Silver Wings" at the Dominion Theatre. She made a great hit in Sir Nigel Playfair's "Derby Day." She first broadcast three years ago and has been heard on the air in variety, operetta, as a soloist and in the popular "Old Music-Halls." (No. 33.)

RONALD FRANKAU is one of the most popular humorists broadcasting. He comes from a literary family and has written hundreds of songs and many sketches and short stories. He sometimes broadcasts a poem from his children's book " Oh, Dear, Dear ! " and most listeners are familiar with the lines :

" Extraordinary ! Wonderful !
Fascinating ! Queer !
Marvellous ! Incredible !
Oh, dear, dear ! "

Commissioned in the war, he organised his first professional concert " out there." Among his successful ventures are " Cabaret Kittens," excerpts from which he has frequently broadcast. (No. 34).

LESLIE HOLMES AND LESLIE SARONY. The man who wrote " Ain't it Grand to be Bloomin' well Dead " and a hundred other successes, began song-writing when he was convalescing after being wounded in the War—his first real hit being " If you knew Susie." Leslie Holmes (the other half of the " Two Leslies ") showed signs of being musical as soon as he could toddle. As a boy he could play any tune on the piano that he heard whistled in the street. After the War he joined Henry Hall's band and broadcast with them in 1925, and afterwards became a composer. He is a bachelor and shares a West-End flat with Geraldo. His hobbies are motoring and music. (No. 35.)



LEONARD HENRY. The dynamic humour of Leonard Henry is as breezy as the air of the seaside resorts from which he sometimes broadcasts. A true-blue cockney, he can't help being funny, and was probably born with that infectious chuckle. An old Alleynian, he studied chemistry and was on the laboratory staff of a firm of manufacturing chemists until he was involved in an explosion. While recuperating at Southend, he heard the pierrot troupe known as " Pick me up "—they did—for he joined them. Subsequently he played opposite Phyllis Monkman at the Prince of Wales Theatre and toured with Charlot's Revue. He invented "Charlot's Hour" for the B.B.C. (No. 36)

JACK AND CLAUDE HULBERT. The sons of a doctor, these born comedians were sent to Cambridge with the intention of following professions very different from those in which they have been successful. While playing in "The Arcadians," Jack met Cicely Courtneidge, whom he subsequently married. He was in the Army during the War, and a few years later was the rage of London in "Clowns in Clover" and other successes. Claude is married to Enid Trevor and has two children. He became known to listeners as a quarter of "The Two Pairs" and "Those Four Chaps." He writes most of his own radio material, and usually is "on the air" with his wife. (No. 37.)

CICELY COURTNEIDGE. Cicely Courtneidge who is equally famous on stage, screen, and radio, was born in Australia, and is the daughter of Robert Courtneidge, the well-known theatrical manager and producer. She made her début as Peaseblossom in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at Manchester, and after appearing in Australia, came to England again. While playing in "The Arcadians" she first met her husband, Jack Hulbert, just down from Cambridge. Cicely Courtneidge is now one of the most popular broadcasting comediennes and a member of one of the largest broadcasting families in Britain, consisting of Claude Hulbert, Enid Trevor and Peter Haddon, besides her husband and herself. (No. 38.)

KENNETH AND GEORGE WESTERN. The Western Brothers, the famous wireless "cads," started their careers together. They have gone through life teaching each other things. They taught each other to write, they taught each other to sing and have just taught each other to fly. They wrote a revue called "Vaudeville Vanities" as far back as 1926, and were asked to put on a turn of some of their musical numbers at a Sunday concert at the Palladium. There was no one to do it except themselves—and they're still going strong. They burlesque, in their songs, anything from the government of the day to public schools and "old school ties." (No. 39.)

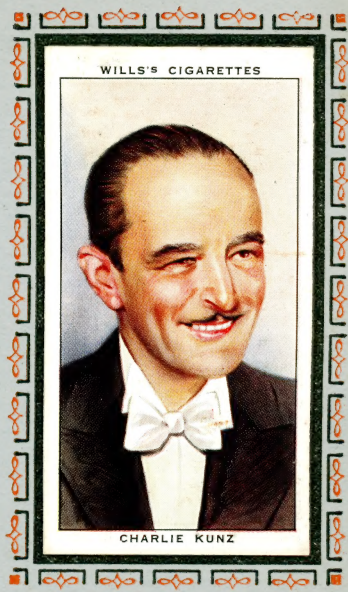
NORMAN LONG. Norman Long might still have been an insurance agent had he not discovered during the War that he could amuse the soldiers in his regiment singing funny songs at the piano. He was the first entertainer to broadcast at Marconi House in 1922, and he broadcast again at the opening of the Savoy Hill studios. Another "first" was his broadcast at the Royal Command Performance in 1927—the first Command Performance to be heard over the air. He is one of the eligible bachelors of radio, although his broadcasts have brought him many offers of marriage. He plays golf and was president of the Vaudeville Golfing Society. (No. 40.)

ELSIE AND DORIS WATERS. Elsie and Doris Waters are the originators of the famous "Gert" and "Daisy" characters. They were born in London and with their four brothers formed a family orchestra when young. Elsie studied the violin and was a pupil of Albert Sammons. First broadcasting in March, 1927, they have never once repeated a sketch. They have played before the Princess Royal and have been presented to the Prince of Wales. The sisters write all their own material, both music and lyrics. Elsie is fair and the "Gert" of the partnership; Doris is dark and plays "Daisy." They usually appear before the microphone in their "charlady" clothes. (No. 41.)

JANET JOYE. "The girl with a hundred personalities," Janet Joye dreamed of playing Shakespeare, and studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. She might have been a great Shakespearean actress—if Shakespeare had let her, but the Bard wrote no leading lady rôles for people as tiny as Miss Joye. So she became a comedienne-mimic. She learns how to imitate cats and dogs from her Manx cat, Mr. Tom Fuss, and from her Irish terrier. Janet Joye writes all her own material and prefers creating characters to imitating living ones. Her recent series of animal stories were a popular feature of the Children's Hour (No. 42.)

BILLY MAYERL. "The pianist with lightning in his fingers" has been playing the piano all his life, and at the age of seven he got into disgrace for "jazzing" Beethoven and Grieg while studying at the Trinity College of Music. At the age of twelve he played the Grieg Concerto at Queen's Hall and was hailed as an infant prodigy, but his career was interrupted through family misfortunes. While playing the piano at a local cinema Billy Mayerl discovered that there was more money in syncopation than in symphonies. He joined the Savoy Orpheans and became famous in a night; he has been broadcasting ever since. (No. 43.)

CARROLL GIBBONS. Born in Massachusetts, U.S.A. Carroll Gibbons studied harmony and piano technique at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. In this country he was the solo pianist of the original Savoy Orpheans, and now directs the dance orchestra at the Savoy. A bachelor and only just over thirty, he plays golf and admits he plays it badly, but likes driving fast cars. His now famous tune "On the Air" is the signature tune of Rudy Vallee, the famous American dance band conductor, who is a great friend of Carroll Gibbons. (No. 44.)



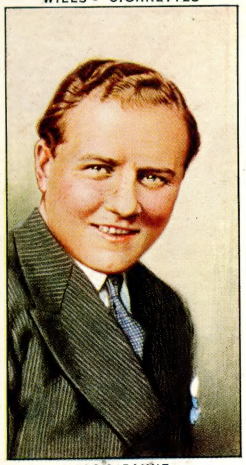
CHARLIE KUNZ. The Casani Club Orchestra directed by Charles Kunz is one of the most popular dance bands on the air, and Charlie himself as a pianist is even more popular. His signature tune, as most listeners know, is "Clap hands, here comes Charlie!" which is based on the song "Here comes Charlie"—popular among dance bands when he came to England twelve years ago. Born in Pennsylvania, Charlie, after trying many ways of making a living, found one to suit him—a night job playing the piano at a local hotel, which he combined with delivering early morning milk, going straight from the hotel to the milk round in his evening clothes! (No. 45.)

AMBROSE. A pioneer among dance band leaders, Ambrose began his career by deputising for a sick violinist in a theatre orchestra. Five years later he was conducting at one of New York's most expensive clubs, and was the highest-paid dance band leader there. Coming to London he played at the Embassy for two years, then returned to America for a year's contract at 3,000 dollars a week. He has since played at both the Embassy and the May Fair, and has broadcast continuously for five years from the latter. Ambrose commands wonderful loyalty from his band, the personnel of which has hardly changed for twelve years. (No. 46.)

ROY FOX. Born in California, Roy Fox was at one time with Fox Films at Hollywood, where he found that the similarity in names could be very embarrassing. Known as the "Whispering Cornetist" Roy took America by storm and then decided to come to England. Bringing six musicians with him, he founded a band and began his British career at the Café de Paris. Later he formed an all-British combination at the Monseigneur, and received a well-merited honour when his band was selected to appear at a Royal Command Performance. He has broadcast regularly from both the Kit Cat and the Café de Paris. (No. 47.)

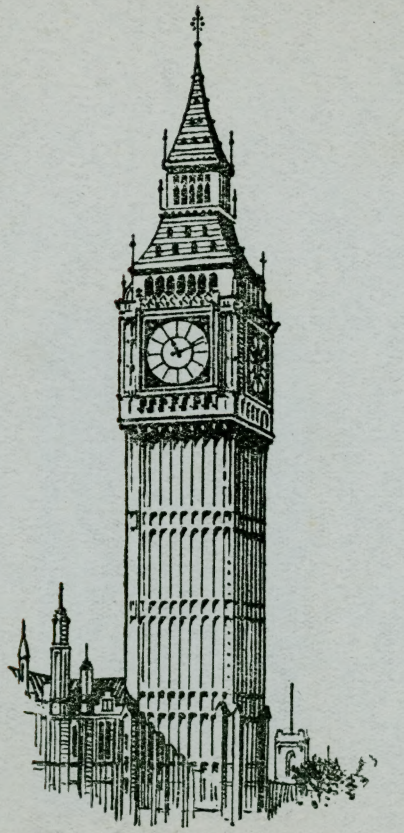
LEW STONE. One of the highest-paid dance band leaders in London to-day, Lew Stone started his musical career playing in a small London night club, and then went as pianist with Bert Ralton's Band to South Africa. On returning he orchestrated for Ambrose, and then joined Roy Fox at Monseigneur where he played the piano. While Roy Fox was recuperating after an illness, Lew took over the management of the band. He jumped right to the front of dance band leaders and has stayed there. One of the most modest of dance band conductors, he still gets his greatest thrill out of hearing his band play his own arrangements. (No. 48.)

WILLS'S CIGARETTES



JACK PAYNE

JACK PAYNE. Jack Payne's first dance band experience was as a pianist in the officers' mess at Scampton (Lincs) where he was stationed when an R.A.F. pilot during the War. The thirteenth is his lucky day, for it was on a Friday the thirteenth that he landed a contract to organise the dance music at the Hotel Cecil. In 1928, he became Director of the B.B.C.'s official dance band, and during his term of office he made dance music one of the most popular items of the programmes. In 1930 he took part in the Royal Command Performance. Since leaving the B.B.C. he has appeared at almost every important music hall in this country and on the Continent. (No. 49.)



"Big Ben" Westminster

WILLS'S CIGARETTES

HENRY HALL

HENRY HALL. After ten years of broadcasting, Henry Hall is one of the best-known of dance band leaders. Educated for the Civil Service, he devoted his spare time to music, studying at the Guildhall School of Music. Forming a dance band, his skill as a composer enabled him to become one of the best arrangers of music in the dance band world. He was Musical Director of the L.M.S. Hotel Dance Orchestra for ten years, and had 32 orchestras under his direction. He first broadcast in 1924, and was appointed Director of the B.B.C. Dance Orchestra in 1932. His first broadcast in that capacity was the first public transmission from Broadcasting House. (No. 50.)

9188